

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Preliminary Issues and Requests

Applicants note that on the cover sheet of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that “some” of the priority documents have been received. Applicants note that there is only a single priority document which was filed on November 26, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of all of the priority documents.

Additionally, the Examiner rejects the current claims over Zhang (U.S. Patent 7,120,856), but fails to list Zhang on any TPO-892 form. In order to ensure that Zhang is properly listed on the cover of any Patent issuing from this Application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner prepare and mail a PTO-892 form listing the Zhang reference with the next Office communication.

Claim 1 — Objection

Claim 1 stands objected to due to informalities. With this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner to correct the typographical error. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-22 — §103(a)

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over Zhang (U.S. Patent 7,120,856).

Applicants note that the issue date of Zhang (October 10, 2006) and the publication date of Zhang (March 25, 2004) are later than the U.S. filing date of the present Application (November 26, 2003). Therefore, Zhang is only available as a prior art reference against the present Application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Additionally, the earliest filing date of Zhang (September 24, 2003) is after the filing date of the priority document (JP 2002-350846: December 3, 2002). Therefore, with this Amendment, Applicants file herewith a certified translation of the priority document (JP 2002-350846) in order to perfect priority and to remove Zhang as a prior art reference.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-22 over Zhang be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/721,099

Q78646

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

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